

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 21, 2005 rejects claims 1-20. This paper amends no claims, cancels no claims, and adds no new claims. Claims 1-20 are still pending in the application.

Rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) **and under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-20 as either anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0050914 ("Akshane et al.") under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) or unpatentable over Akahane under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants herewith submit a copy of an Affidavit under 37 U.S.C. §1.131 ("Rule 131") with supporting documents to establish invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to the effective date of Akahane on which the rejection is based. Applicants contend that the Rule 131 affidavit and accompanying documentation antedates Akahane, removing it as prior art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the arguments made herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and requests early favorable action by the Examiner.

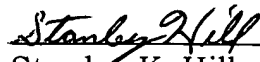
If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the Applicant's representative would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned at (508) 303-2003.

Authorization is hereby granted to apply any credits or fees due in this case not covered by check to Deposit Account 50-2295.

Respectfully submitted,

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